

State of Rhode Island

Journal of the Senate

JANUARY SESSION of the General Assembly begun and held at the State House in the City of Providence on Tuesday, the Seventh day of January in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

Volume 152, No. 27

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Twenty-seventh Legislative Day

CALL TO ORDER

The Senate meets pursuant to adjournment and is called to order by The Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, President of the Senate, on at 4:19 o'clock P.M.

ROLL CALL

The roll is called and a quorum is declared present with 34 Senators present and 3 Senators absent as follows:

PRESENT –34: The Honorable President Valarie Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

ABSENT – 3: Senators Euer, Pearson, and Sosnowski.

INVOCATION

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senator Vargas to deliver the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

The Honorable President, by unanimous consent, presents Senator Vargas, to lead the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

APPROVAL OF RECORD

The Senate Journal of the Twenty-sixth Legislative Day of the 2025 proceedings is read in part.

Upon suggestion of Senator Vargas and by unanimous consent, further reading of the Journal is dispensed with and the Journal approved as recorded.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Vargas and Senator Gallo and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber from the Cranston High School East Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program; CDT LTC Battalion Commander Amaya Cabral, Arlette Sanchez, Cristy Juarez Linares, Victor Alonzo, Laura Diaz Sanchez, Miguel Santino Guerrero, Desiree Hardy, Ansony Chavarria Luis, Shou Jun Shi, Jonathan Quiroa, Danny Song, Pangzong Kue, Aiden King, India Perry, Nathalie Morales, Sergeant Major Moises Moniz, Lisa Ventetuolo, Principal Thomas Barbieri and Assistant Principal Kaitlin Hitchings.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Chairwoman LaMountain, from the Committee on Judiciary, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

Senate Bill No. 317

BY Ciccone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE --
PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- FEES (Increases the maximum fees payable to sheriffs,
sergeants, and constables for the service of writs, citations, or subpoenas, from \$45.00 to
\$70.00.)
{LC1519/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 356

BY LaMountain, McKenney

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FIDUCIARIES -- APPLICATION OF LAWS TO
TRUSTS (Provides that a communication between an attorney and client acting as a trustee or
other fiduciary, is privileged and protected from disclosure to the same extent as if the client was
acting in his, her, or its individual capacity.)
{LC1328/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 514**BY** Burke, Ciccone, Tikoian, McKenney, Pearson, Appollonio**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- RETIREMENT SYSTEM--ADMINISTRATION (Requires the state retirement board to publish online all archived video or audio recordings and all future recordings of meetings of the board.) {LC2097/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 532**BY** Felag, DiPalma, Lauria, Raptakis, Tikoian, Sosnowski, Euer**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS (Allows boats and marine assets to utilize the overweight oversize annual blanket permit that was in effect until 2022, and for the resumption of the prior practice of permitting for boats and marine asset transportation.) {LC1639/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 568**BY** Tikoian, LaMountain, Ciccone, Burke, Felag, Dimitri, Rogers, Thompson, Gu, Raptakis
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ENFORCEMENT (Requires that all new school buses be equipped with live digital video school bus violation detection monitoring systems as of July 1, 2027. All buses, new and used, must have the monitoring systems installed by July 1, 2032.) {LC1744/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 730

(General Treasurer)

BY LaMountain, Tikoian, Felag, Murray, Lawson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE -- PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- LEVY AND SALE ON EXECUTION (Exempts qualified tuition savings programs of any state authorized under 26 U.S.C. § 529 from judicial attachment.) {LC1699/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 731

(General Treasurer)

BY LaMountain, Tikoian, Felag, Murray, Lawson**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (Prohibits the state from seeking reimbursement for expenditures made on behalf of disabled Rhode Islanders from an ABLE account after death of the designated beneficiary.)

{LC1693/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 926**BY** LaMountain**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE GOOD SAMARITAN OVERDOSE PREVENTION ACT OF 2016 (Extends the immunity from alcohol- or drug-related offenses in cases of emergency overdose care to violations of bail conditions.)

{LC2617/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

Senate Bill No. 952

(Attorney General)

BY Tikoian, McKenney, Burke, Appollonio, Patalano, Dimitri, Urso, Quezada, Rogers, de la Cruz**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- CREDIT CARD CRIME ACT (Adds "debit cards" to the section of law relating to fraudulent use of credit cards.)

{LC2202/1}

Placed on the Calendar.

FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A message from the House of Representatives transmits with announcement of passage, of the following measures:

House Bill No. 5270

BY McGaw

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Exempts from taxation the real and tangible personal property of the Friends of Little Compton Wellness Center, Inc.)

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

House Bill No. 5307

(City of Providence)

BY DeSimone, Biah, Azzinaro, Ajello, Diaz, Slater, Hull

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION (Authorizes the Providence city council to set the veterans tax exemption limit to an amount determined by the city council via ordinance or resolution.)

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

House Bill No. 6111

(Tiverton)

BY Edwards, McGaw

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF TIVERTON (Validates and ratifies the amendments to the Tiverton Home Rule Charter which were approved by the electors of the town of Tiverton on November 5, 2024.)
{LC1052/1}

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR

The Honorable President presents the following communication from His Excellency, The Governor, transmitting the following appointments and requesting the advice and consent of the Senate thereto:



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. McKEE

May 16, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions Rhode Island General Laws § 42-99-4, I have made the following appointment to the Convention Center Authority:

Sarah Bratko
Vice
Stephen S. Iannazzi

For a term expiring June 30, 2027

To this Appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor
DJM/ecd

Cc: Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone, III, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce.



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR DANIEL J. McKEE

April 30, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE,

I have the honor to inform you in accordance with the provisions of Section § 39-18-2 of the Rhode Island General Laws, I have made the following appointment to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority:

Bernard S. Georges

Vice
Robert Kells

For a term expiring April 1, 2027.

To this Appointment, I respectfully request your advice and consent.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

Cc: Honorable Valarie J. Lawson, Senate President
Honorable Frank A. Ciccone, III Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Jessica de la Cruz, Senate Minority Leader

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903

Referred to the Senate Committee on Housing and Municipal Government.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**Senate Resolution No. 1023****BY** Murray**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING MAY OF 2025, TO BE "BRAIN TUMOR AWARENESS MONTH" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
{LC2788/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Murray requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Murray moves passage, seconded by Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Murray and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber Lisa D'Ambra and Michelle Alves.

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**Senate Resolution No. 1081****BY** Kallman**ENTITLED**, SENATE RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT G. SALISBURY
{LC2911/1}

Recommended for Immediate Consideration.

Senator Kallman requests unanimous consent for immediate consideration.

Unanimous consent for immediate consideration is granted.

Senator Kallman moves passage, seconded by Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissailon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The resolution is read and passed upon a rising vote.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Kallman and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber Jen Hanley and Lauren Ezovski.

Appendix**CALENDAR****IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2025:**

1. ***The Appointment of Dennis L. Algiere VICE Thomas Izzo to the Board of Education for a term expiring January 31, 2029.***

Committee on Education recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

Senator Gallo moves that the advice and consent of the Senate be given this appointment, seconded by Senators Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

Senators de la Cruz and Rogers discuss the appointment.

The advice and consent of the Senate is given, by unanimous consent, upon a roll call vote, with 34 members voting in the affirmative, and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 34: The Honorable President Valarie Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

2. **2025-S 103**

BY Urso

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS
INSURANCE POLICIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Senator Urso moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 32 members voting in the affirmative and 2 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 32: The Honorable President Valarie Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 2: Senators de la Cruz and Morgan.

3. 2025-S 610 SUB A

BY Lawson

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT INSURANCE POLICIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and passage of Substitute A.

Senator Murray moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The bill marked Substitute “A” is read and passed and the original bill indefinitely postponed, by unanimous consent, in concurrence, upon a roll call vote, with 34 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 34: The Honorable President Valarie Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

4. 2025-S 705**BY** DiMario**ENTITLED**, AN ACT RELATING TO INSURANCE -- ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS
INSURANCE POLICIES

Committee on Health & Human Services recommends passage.

Senator DiMario moves passage of the act, seconded by Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

The act is read and passed, upon a roll call vote, with 34 members voting in the affirmative and 0 members voting in the negative as follows:

YEAS – 34: The Honorable President Valarie Lawson, Senators Acosta, Appollonio, Bell, Bissaillon, Britto, Burke, Ciccone, de la Cruz, DiMario, Dimitri, DiPalma, Felag, Gallo, Gu, Kallman, LaMountain, Lauria, Mack, McKenney, Morgan, Murray, Paolino, Patalano, Quezada, Raptakis, Rogers, Thompson, Tikoian, Ujifusa, Urso, Valverde, Vargas and Zurier.

NAYS – 0:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senator Bissaillon announces that the Senate Committee on Judiciary will meet at the rise of the senate in room 313.

Senator Lauria announces that the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services will meet at the rise of the senate in the senate lounge.

Senator Felag announces that the Senate Committee on Finance will meet at the rise of the senate in Room 211.

Senator Thompson announces that the Senate Committee on Labor and Gaming will meet tomorrow at 4:00pm in Room 212.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Upon suggestion of Senator Bissaillon and by unanimous consent, the Honorable Senate President, welcomes to the Chamber former North Providence Town Councilman Peter Mancini.

TRANSMITTAL

By unanimous consent, all matters on the Secretary's desk are ordered to be transmitted to His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Secretary of State or to the Honorable House of Representatives forthwith.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

Chairwoman LaMountain, from the Committee on Judiciary, reports back, with recommendation of passage of the following measures:

The Reappointment of Paul MacDonald to the Convention Center Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2028.

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

The Reappointment of Peter Mancini to the Convention Center Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2029.

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

The Appointment of Shawn Karachsky (Public Member) VICE Donald Gralnek to the Quonset Development Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2027.

Placed on the Consent Calendar.

The Appointment of Tracey Jeter VICE David Chenervert to the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation for a term expiring February 1, 2029.

Placed on the Calendar.

The Appointment of Karen M. Bradbury VICE John Revens to the Public Utilities Commission for a term expiring March 1, 2027.

Placed on the Calendar.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion of Senator Tikoian, seconded by Senator Ciccone, and upon suggestion of Senator Kallman, the Senate adjourns at 4:50 o'clock P.M. *in memory of the Honorable Robert G. Salisbury.*

HELENA S. REID
Secretary of the Senate

Appendix

INVOCATION

SENATOR LAMMIS VARGAS

Dear Lord, We pray that you bless this Senate. Help us to work with a real commitment to resolving the problems that face our State. Remind us to always treat each other with dignity and respect. Amen.

Appendix

CONSENT CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025:

1. ***The Reappointment of Paul MacDonald to the Convention Center Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2028.***

Committee on Commerce recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

2. ***The Reappointment of Peter Mancini to the Convention Center Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2029.***

Committee on Commerce recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

3. ***The Appointment of Shawn Karachsky (Public Member) VICE Donald Gralnek to the Quonset Development Corporation for a term expiring December 31, 2027.***

Committee on Commerce recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

4. **2025-H 5270**

BY McGaw

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Finance recommends passage in concurrence.

5. **2025-H 5307**

BY DeSimone

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION -- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAXATION

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage in concurrence.

6. **2025-H 6111**

BY Edwards

ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO VALIDATING AND RATIFYING AMENDMENTS TO THE HOME RULE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF TIVERTON

Committee on Housing & Municipal Government recommends passage in concurrence.

Appendix
CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025:

- 1. 2025-S 317**
BY Ciccone
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE --
PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- FEES

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
- 2. 2025-S 356**
BY LaMountain
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FIDUCIARIES -- APPLICATION OF LAWS
TO TRUSTS

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
- 3. 2025-S 514 SUB A**
BY Burke
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES --
RETIREMENT SYSTEM--ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Judiciary recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and
passage of Substitute A.
- 4. 2025-S 532 SUB A**
BY Felag
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- SIZE,
WEIGHT, AND LOAD LIMITS

Committee on Judiciary recommends indefinite postponement of the original bill and
passage of Substitute A.
- 5. 2025-S 568**
BY Tikoian
ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES --
SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ENFORCEMENT

Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

6. **2025-S 730**
 BY LaMountain
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE --
 PROCEDURE GENERALLY -- LEVY AND SALE ON EXECUTION

 Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
7. **2025-S 731**
 BY LaMountain
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT --
 OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

 Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
8. **2025-S 926**
 BY LaMountain
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE GOOD
 SAMARITAN OVERDOSE PREVENTION ACT OF 2016

 Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.
9. **2025-S 952**
 BY Tikoian
 ENTITLED, AN ACT RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- CREDIT CARD
 CRIME ACT

 Committee on Judiciary recommends passage.

Appendix
CALENDAR

IN ORDER FOR TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025:

- 1. *The Appointment of Tracey Jeter VICE David Chenervert to the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation for a term expiring February 1, 2029.***

Committee on Commerce recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.

- 2. *The Appointment of Karen M. Bradbury VICE John Revens to the Public Utilities Commission for a term expiring March 1, 2027.***

Committee on Commerce recommends that the Senate give its Advice and Consent to this nomination.